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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original) A polymer composition, comprising a mixture of a polymer derivative having the structure R-O-POLY-R' and a polymer derivative having the structure R-O-POLY-O-R, wherein POLY is a water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer, R is an alkyl or an aryl group, and R' is a functional group.
2. (Currently Amended) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein POLY is selected from the group consisting of poly(alkylene oxides), poly(acryloylmorpholine), poly(oxazoline), and poly(vinylpyrrolidone).
3. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein POLY is poly(ethylene glycol).
4. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 3, wherein POLY has the formula $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, where n is from about 8 to about 4000.
5. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein R is methyl.
6. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein R' is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, mesylate, tosylate, tresylate, $-\text{O}-\text{CO}_2\text{R}_3$ wherein R_3 is H, alkyl or N-succinimidyl, $-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{CO}_2\text{R}_3$ wherein n is 1-6 and R_3 is H, alkyl or N-succinimidyl, $-\text{NHR}_4$ wherein R_4 is H or alkyl or an amine protecting group, $-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{CH}(\text{ZR}_5)_2$ wherein n is 1-6, and Z is O or S, R_5 is H or an alkyl group, $\text{Ar}-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{CO}_2-$, wherein Ar represents a moiety selected from the group consisting of phenyl, substituted phenyl, biphenyl, substituted biphenyl, polycyclic aryls, substituted polycyclic aryls, and heterocyclic aryls, $-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{CHO}$ wherein n is 1-6, $-\text{O}_2\text{CCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{R}_6$, wherein R_6 is H or N-succinimidyl, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{CO}_2-$, and $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CO}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2-\text{NHS}$, wherein NHS is N-succinimidyl.
7. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein R' is hydroxyl.

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8. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein R' is $-O-CO_2R_3$ or $-O-(CH_2)_n-CO_2R_3$, wherein n is 1-6 and R_3 is H, alkyl or N-succinimidyl.
9. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 8, wherein R_3 is N-succinimidyl.
10. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein R' is $-O-(CH_2)_n-CHO$ wherein n is 1-6.
11. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein R' is $-O-(CH_2)_n-CH(ZR_5)_2$ wherein n is 1-6, Z is O or S, and R_5 is H or an alkyl group.
12. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein POLY is poly(ethylene glycol), R is methyl, and R' is $-O-(CH_2)_n-CHO$ wherein n is 2.
13. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 12, wherein POLY has the formula $-CH_2CH_2-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-CH_2CH_2-$, where n is from about 8 to about 4000.
14. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 1, wherein POLY is poly(ethylene glycol), R is methyl, and R' is hydroxyl.
15. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 14, wherein POLY has the formula $-CH_2CH_2-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-CH_2CH_2-$, where n is from about 8 to about 4000.
16. (Currently Amended) A polymer composition, comprising a polymer derivative having the structure $R-O-POLY-R'$, wherein POLY is a water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer, R is an alkyl or an aryl group, and R' is $-O-(CH_2)_n-CHO$ or $O-(CH_2)_n-CH(ZR_5)_2$ wherein n is 1-6, Z is O or S, and R_5 is H or an alkyl group ~~a functional group~~, in the absence of $HO-POLY-OH$.

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17. (Currently Amended) The polymer composition of Claim 16, wherein POLY is selected from the group consisting of poly(alkylene oxides), poly(acryloylmorpholine), poly(oxazoline), and poly(vinylpyrrolidone).

18. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 16, wherein POLY is poly(ethylene glycol).

19. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 18, wherein POLY has the formula $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, where n is from about 8 to about 4000.

20. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 16, wherein R is methyl.

21 - 26 (Cancelled)

27. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 16, wherein POLY is poly(ethylene glycol), R is methyl, and R' is $-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{CHO}$, wherein n is 2.

28. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 27, wherein POLY has the formula $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, where n is from about 8 to about 4000.

29. (Currently Amended) The polymer composition of Claim 16, wherein POLY is poly(ethylene glycol)[[.]] and R is methyl, and ~~R' is hydroxyl.~~

30. (Original) The polymer composition of Claim 29, wherein POLY has the formula $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, where n is from about 8 to about 4000.

31 - 50 (Cancelled)